

ARCHEOLOGY REPORT FOR THE
ELMENDORPH INN, 36-10084
DUTCHESS COUNTY

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Introduction

The Friends of Elmendorph, Incorporated, after receiving a Federal grant administered by the Historic Preservation Field Services of the New York State Parks and Recreation, will soon be undertaking the initial restoration of the 18th century Elmendorph Inn. The inn is located in the village of Red Hook in the county of Dutchess. This report provides the required archaeological testing information.

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Project Description

The proposed restoration work that necessitated archaeological testing is the stabilization of the first floor framing in the south wing of the structure (Area A) and the first floor framing above the cellar (Area B). (Test Unit Plan, pp. 10). This will require the installation of concrete footings supporting adjustable steel columns that will support the beams. The installation of these footings will produce disturbance of the ground surface in both areas to approximately 8 inches in depth. Therefore, the archaeological testing is required to determine the existence of cultural material of historical or prehistorical significance.

Testing Method

Despite the extensive nature of the first floor framing it was decided to limit the testing initially to one test unit (T.U.) in each area. In Area A, T.U. I was a 2-foot square unit excavated to a depth of one foot in 6-inch arbitrary levels. Two arbitrary 6-inch levels were chosen because Area A is a crawl space and the probability of uncovering significant cultural material was low as this area appeared to be relatively undisturbed.

In Area B, T.U. II was a 16-inch square unit excavated to a depth of 8 inches at 2-inch arbitrary levels. The 2-inch levels were chosen as the probability appeared to be high that significant cultural material would be uncovered in the dirt floor of the cellar.

The test units were excavated by trowel and the soil screened for cultural material.

Testing Results and Recommendations

Area A

The excavation of T.U.I produced the predicted results with relatively insignificant cultural material. All cultural material was located within the first 6-inch level and primarily in the first four inches. A heavy concentration of wood was found along the south and east walls of the test unit but it is insignificant as they are unrelated fragments randomly placed. Several small fragments of glass were found in this level but only three very small fragments appear to be earlier than 20th century. Fragments of brick were scattered throughout this level but these are also 20th century. The most significant cultural material was the ceramics. Five small sherds of earthenware, two sherds of stoneware and one kaolin pipe fragment are 19th century. One rusted nail of indeterminate age was found and a few oyster shell and faunal bone fragments were found in this level.

All cultural material was found in a level of loosely packed, coarse, light brown sand. The material was not found in situ but while screening the soil.

Area B

The excavation of T.U.II did not produce the significant cultural material that was expected. All cultural material was located within the first 2-inch level. Several indeterminate rusted metal fragments and a rusted bolt and staple, both 20th century were found near the surface. Several glass fragments--three small light green fragments, one small brown fragment and

one small green fragment were all 20th century glass. One small ceramic sherd of 19th century earthenware was the only artifact of historic significance. The cultural material was primarily located in the first inch of the first level in the coarse brown sand near the surface.

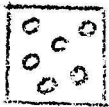
From the results of the testing of Areas A and B the probability is low that the restoration work will destroy any historic cultural material that would provide valuable information about the structure.

Soil Profile Key

Test Unit I



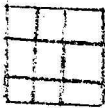
- Very fine dry brown sand



- Coarse light brown sand with cobbles

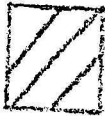


- Coarse compact yellow/brown sand

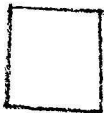


- Coarse light brown sand with wood & wood shavings

Test Unit-II



- Fine light brown sand



- Coarse brown sand



- Coarse brown sand & wood

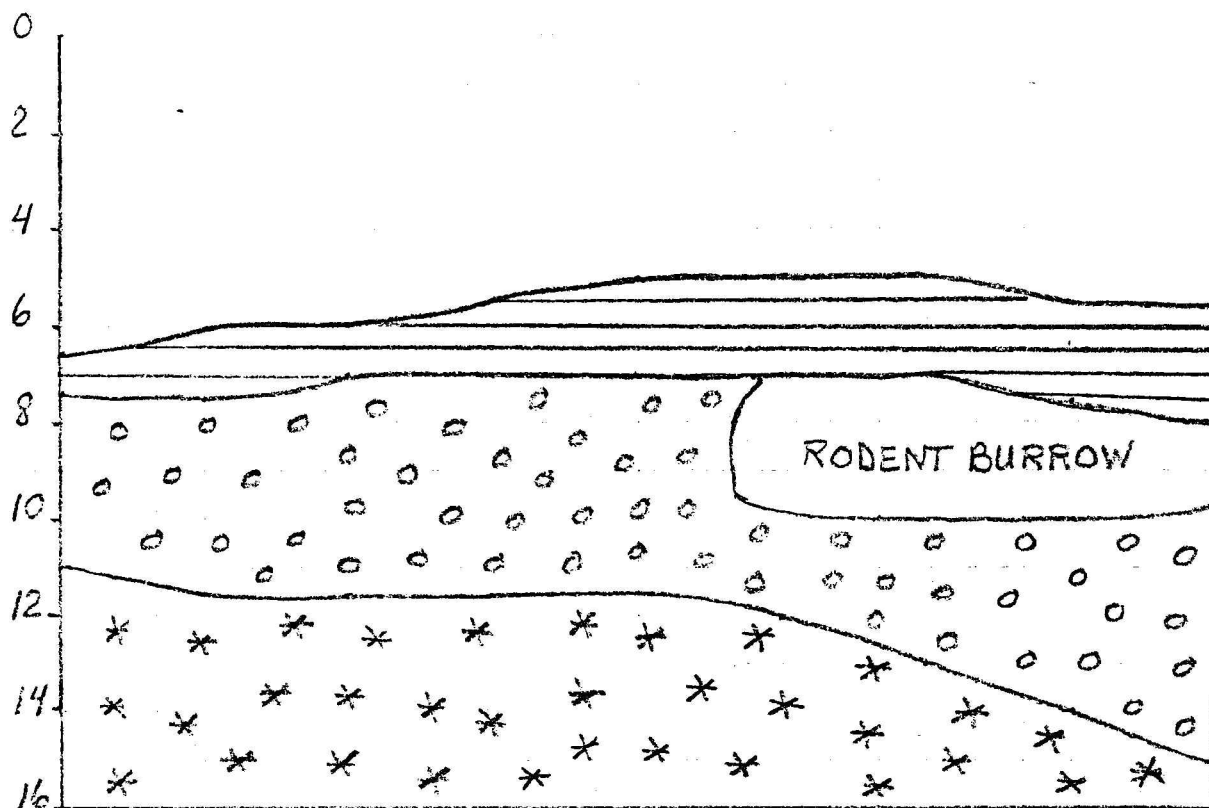


- Very fine light gray sand

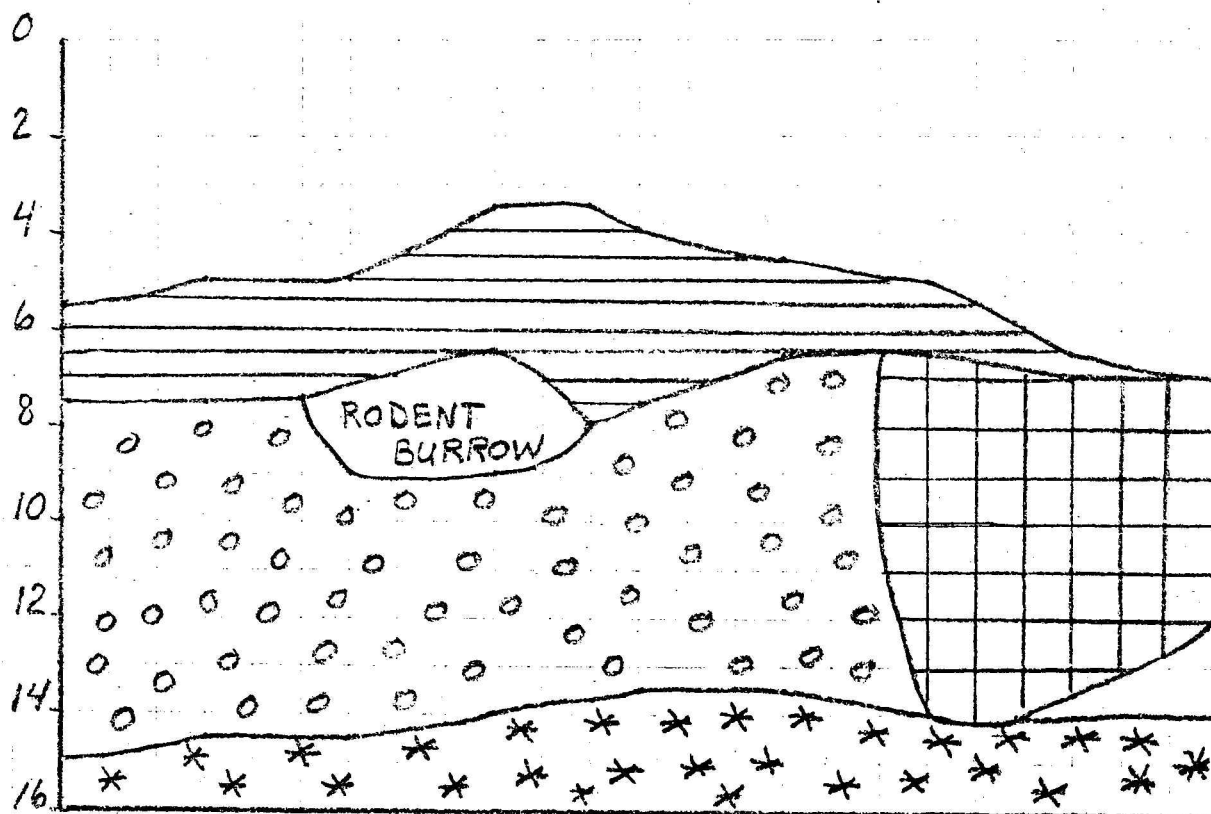
Scale: $1/4" = 1'$

SOIL PROFILES - TEST UNIT I

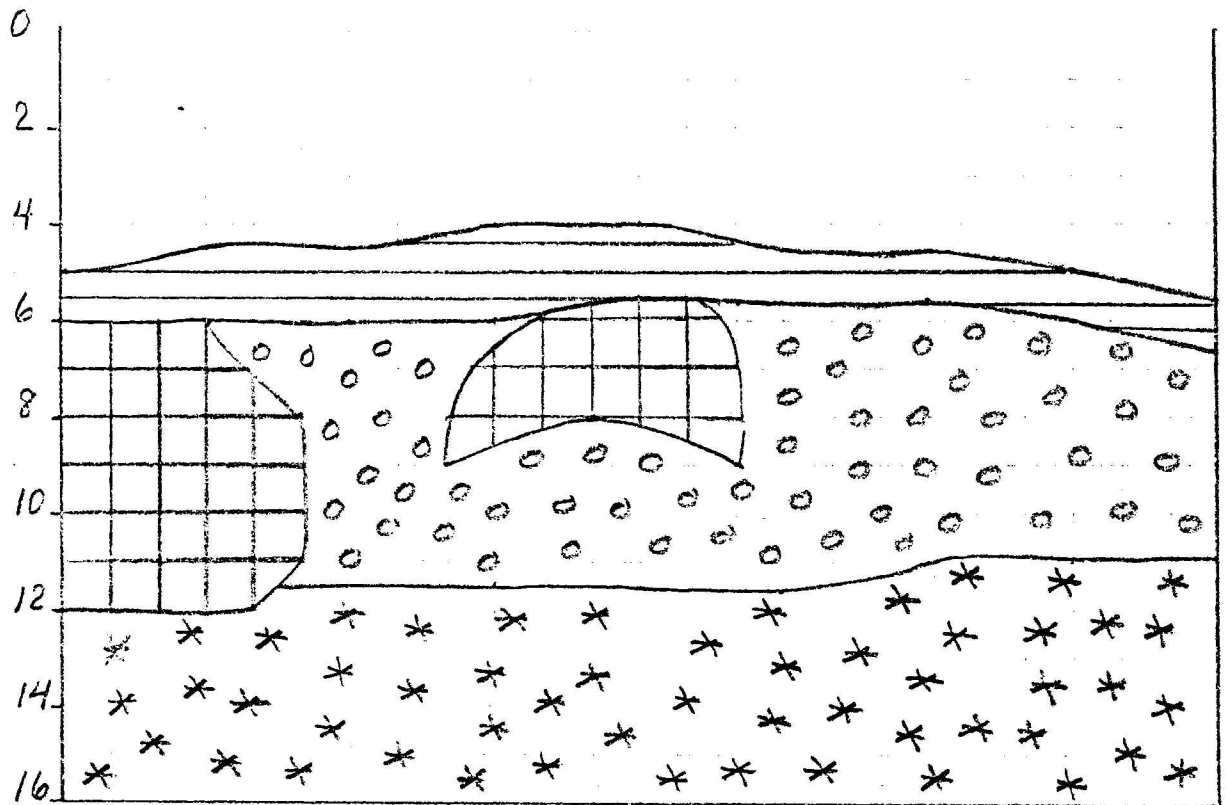
WEST WALL



SOUTH WALL



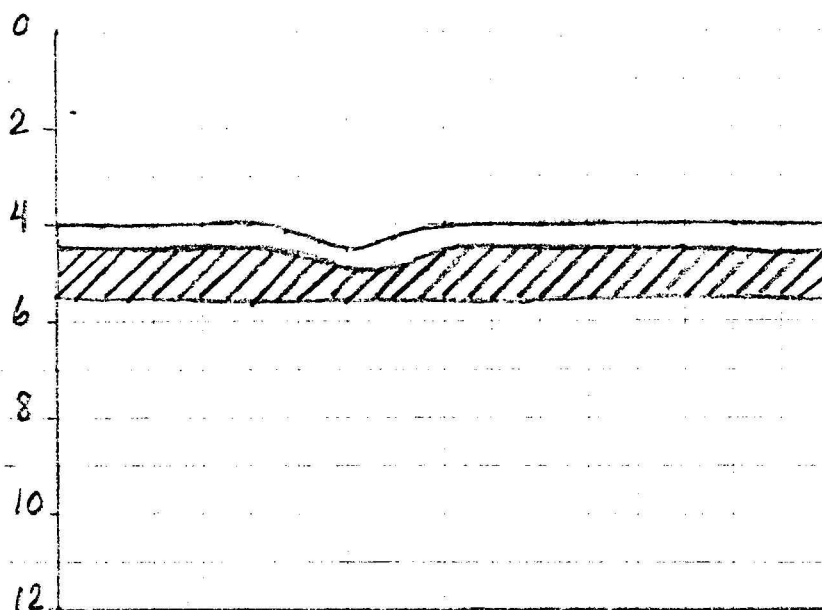
EAST WALL



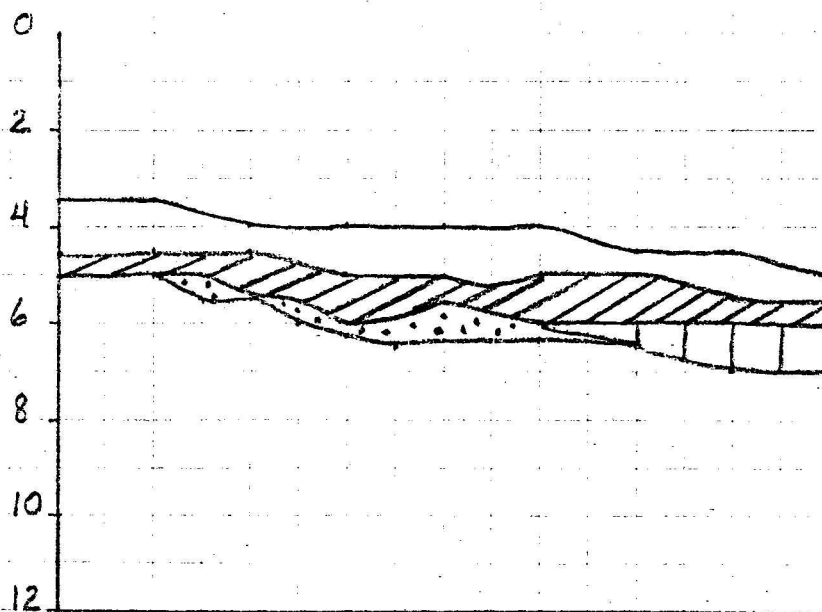
A soil profile was not drawn of the north wall of T.U. I because the test unit is in a crawl space and the north wall could not be seen to be measured.

SOIL PROFILES - TEST UNIT II

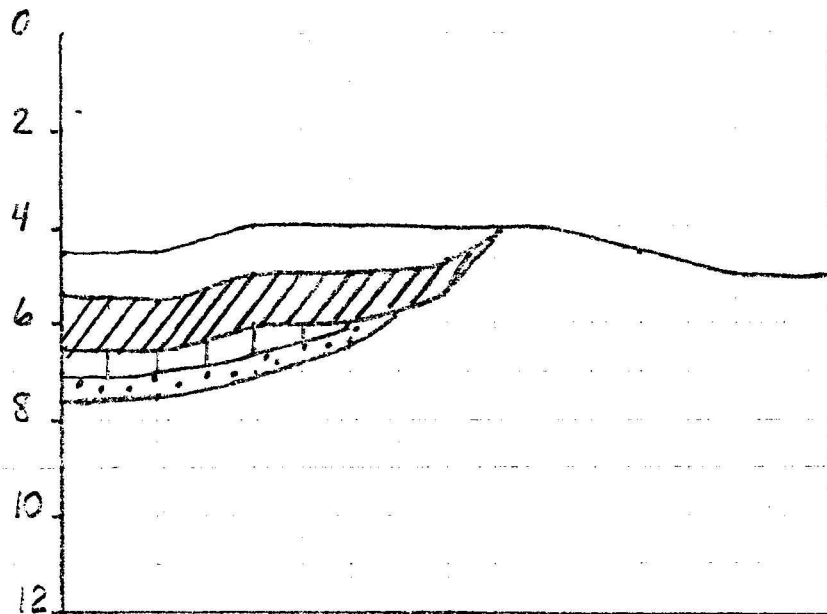
NORTH WALL



EAST WALL



SOUTH WALL



Soil Profile of West Wall: 0 - 8 = Coarse brown sand